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Poster: Ethical and legal aspects in animal experimentation

## **The Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Alternatives to the use of animals in life sciences**

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The Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Alternatives to the Use of Animals in Life Sciences has been proposed as a national center for alternatives to the Government of India, with the mandate to promote the quality and excellence in life science education/research by way of introducing value based learning systems that will promote “humane science”. The centre will endeavor to blend the Gandhian philosophy of Ahimsa in life science education/research and promote the use of alternatives to the use of animals in research and education. This center will be a unique insignia of the Gandhism where in the psycho-social concept of Ahimsa will be introduced to redefine, reform and revolutionize the teaching/research in life sciences in India. As a national body, it will promote this philosophy by promoting the “The 3Rs”- in the use of animals in education, research and testing and it will also promote the concept of the 4Th R – “rehabilitation” of laboratory animals.

Central to Mahatma Gandhiji's vision was an impassioned conviction that at the heart of all life there is ‘Truth’ which sustains all creation; a ‘Truth’ which demands a personal response from each individual. He saw this ‘Truth’ as a truth present in every person. In particular, he held nonviolence as a basic tenet of this ‘truth’, a positive force that can bring about fundamental change at all levels. For Gandhiji ‘Nonviolence’ was the discovery of a new kind of power and taught this philosophy which has universal applicability. The core of that philosophy is the search for truth through nonviolence or Ahimsa. Gandhiji taught respect for animals as well as humans, a non-exploitative relationship to the environment and nonviolence applied at all levels of relationships, be it man to man, man and animal or be it man and environment.

It has been recognized that the teaching of the philosophy of non-violence is an imperative a psycho-social need of the hour and the proposal has been accepted in principle by the University Grants Commission, Government of India for implementation.

*Keywords: Mahatma Gandhi, National Center, Ahimsa, India*